

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative Executive Committee Meeting and Field Tour Meeting Agenda

October 21, 2009

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Pinedale BLM Conference Room

Pinedale, WY

Meeting Goals/Decision Points

- Improve partner coordination
- Team reports
- Tour Projects

Welcome & Review Agenda (5 min)

Executive Committee Round Robin (15 minutes)

Update from Executive Committee Members

Executive Committee

Old Business

Partner Outreach (15 minutes)

Coordination with Wildlife Heritage Foundation (5 minutes)

RC&D Coordination (5 minutes)

Update on WYDOT Stimulus Projects (5 minutes)

EC Action Item

Coordination Team

Coordination Team

Steve Ferrell

Break 15 min

Team and Committee Reports

Coordination Team (20 minutes)

Support Subcommittee Information (5 minutes)

Monitoring Team Activities (5 minutes)

STAC (5 minutes)

Science Update (15 minutes)

Justin Caudill/Coordination Team

Lance Porter

Mark Bellis

Dan Blake

Zack Bowen/Pat Anderson

New Business

WLCI logo (5 minutes)

Executive Committee

Opportunity for Public Comments re: Any topic (5 minutes)

Next Meeting (10 Minutes)

2010 quarterly meeting schedule commitment – plan at least next 2 meetings

(State Legislature Feb 8-Mar 5)

Suggested Schedule – January, April, July, November

ADJOURN by 5:00 pm

(See separate page for Tour Agenda)

Sublette Project Tour

Thursday, October 22, 2009

7:45 am – Tour Orientation at Pinedale BLM Field Office Rendezvous Conference Room.

8:00 am - Leave for Stop 1 - Trapper's Point

GRVLT recently launched the Corridor Conservation Campaign, which seeks to connect Wyoming's working lands and critical wildlife habitats through conservation efforts. This is a 5-year Campaign that will work with landowners, land managers, and others to develop, fund and implement a set of voluntary tools that can be used to sustain agriculture and wildlife habitat in the face of increasing development. The Campaign will focus on a different group of species each year. Its current focus is on big game, including pronghorn and their historic migration between summer range in Grand Teton National Park and winter range in Sublette County. GRVLT will consult with landowners and state wildlife experts to objectively identify priority habitats for these species across the state.

8:25 am – Arrive at Trapper's Point – 15 minute discussion on partnerships

One of the most essential needs for an effective conservation program is effective relationships among the various groups involved.

8:40 am – Leave for Stop 2 – Sommers/Grindstone Ranch

Located along the historic and scenic Green River Valley, the ranches were homesteaded in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The river corridor has an abundance of nesting songbirds, raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds and large birds. This area along the river bottom contains a primary staging area for the fall migration of Sandhill Cranes. The uplands provide nesting habitat for songbirds and sage grouse. Deer, antelope, and moose frequent the ranches. The ranches have views of the Wyoming Range, the Gros Ventres, and the Wind River Ranges. The ranches together provide an unbroken landscape between the Ryegrass area and the Mesa.

8:55 am – Arrive at Sommers Ranch – 15 minute discussion on connectivity and habitat types.

Stable wildlife populations require intact and healthy ecosystems. A number of wildlife species need to be able to move across great distances to maintain viable populations. Some migrate seasonally, while others simply require extensive territories to hunt and disperse successfully, and still others rely on long-distance migration to maintain the genetic diversity that is critical to long-term population viability. Human encroachment on intact ecosystems leads to habitat fragmentation. Altered ecosystems force wildlife to shift their range, underscoring the need for functional pathways where wildlife can move uninhibited across the landscape.

9:10 am – Leave for Stop 3 – Sand Springs Draw

Millions of years ago, major river systems ran through the Anticline area depositing over 5,000 feet of sand and sediment. Over time, these deposits became not only over-pressured and gas charged but also buried by at least 9,000 additional feet of sediment creating the formation now found at Pinedale. This process resulted in the deposition of over 5,000 gross feet of gas-rich sediments in parts of the area.

9:55 am – Arrive at Sand Springs Draw overlook – 15 minute discussion on goals and issues.

The Anticline is a world-class natural gas resource, the nation's second largest. It's also an important wildlife habitat for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, sage grouse and many other species. Balancing resources on the Pinedale Anticline requires a collaborative effort.

10:10 am – Leave for Stop 4 – Boulder Jonah Cheatgrass Project

This invasive species was thought to be unable to survive above 7000', which is where this encroachment is found. This is a new area for the establishment of Cheatgrass. Native plants do not compete when Cheatgrass has been established; therefore, re-seeding will also be done after treatment. Chemical treatments will be discontinued after 3 years and future control will be evaluated after monitoring results are assessed.

10:55 am – Arrive at Boulder Lake Campground – 15 minute discussion on Cheatgrass

Cheatgrass is an annual grass that forms tufts up to 2 ft. (0.6 m) tall. The leaves and sheaths are covered in short, soft hairs. The flowers occur as drooping, open, terminal clusters that can have a greenish, red, or purple hue. Flowering occurs in the early summer. These annual plants will germinate in fall or spring (fall is more common), and senescence usually occurs in summer. Cheatgrass invades rangelands, pastures, prairies, and other open areas. Cheatgrass has the potential to completely alter the ecosystems it invades. It can completely replace native vegetation and change fire regimes. It occurs throughout the United States and Canada, but is most problematic in areas of the western United States with lower precipitation levels. Cheatgrass is native to Europe and parts of Africa and Asia. It was first introduced into the United States accidentally in the mid 1800s.

11:10 am – Leave for Pinedale –

12:30 pm – Arrive in Pinedale